

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first line of the specification with:

This application is a division of ~~pending~~ U.S. Application No. 09/280/785, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,366,888, filed March 29, 1999.

Please replace the abstract beginning at page 32, line 1, with:

An apparatus for providing at least first and second representations of an audio signal for use in a communications system is described. The apparatus comprises a first quantizer for quantizing at least a portion of the signal in accordance with a first multidimensional lattice to generate a first representation. The apparatus further comprises a second quantizer for quantizing at least a portion of the signal in accordance with a second, different multidimensional lattice to generate a second representation. In a communications system, multi-rate coding in accordance with the invention is implemented to generate multiple representations of an audio signal at different rates. These representations contain equivalent and/or various amounts of audio information. In an illustrative embodiment, at least one of the representations the first representation is a core representation containing core audio information. The remaining representations are second representation is an enhancement representations representation containing enhancement audio information. The core representation is necessary for recovering the audio signal with minimal acceptable quality. Such Audio quality is enhanced when the core representation, together with one or more of the enhancement representations representation, is used to recover the audio signal. A method for use in such an apparatus is also described.